

Investment commentary

HSBC Global Equity Climate Change Fund of Fund

An open ended fund of fund scheme investing in HSBC Global Investment Funds – Global Equity Climate Change

January 2022

HSBC Global Equity Climate Change Fund of Fund (HGECF)¹

HGIF Global Equity Climate Change (HGECC) – Underlying Fund – Investment Commentary

Our approach, positioning and key takeaways

- We are closely monitoring the exposure of our portfolio names to the disruption caused by temporary supply chain constraints
- No material changes to the portfolio were made during the month
- Our measure of the global equity risk premium continues to look attractive (excess return over cash)
- We continue to make use of price volatility to add to our key holdings and stocks where we are positive on fundamentals

Performance Synopsis

- Portfolio lost some value as equity markets consolidated driven by fears of tightening of monetary policy
- Investment approach is bottom-up driven, therefore sector / country positioning are residual to the stock selection process
- Portfolio will behave differently in the short term to the wider equity markets as it represents a very small subset (44 / 3,000 names)
- Thematic exposure to decarbonisation and energy transition processes means that the **sectoral make-up of this portfolio is different** from any reference global benchmark
- This leads to a concentration in Industrials, Materials and IT as the main enablers and beneficiaries of these dynamics
- Allocation to the IT and Industrials sector drove the performance, with stock selection in IT a notable contributor
- Renewable energy remained a headwind to performance due to ongoing Inflationary cost pressures & supply chain disruptions

Top contributors to performance

- Accenture, Schneider Electric and Impax Asset Management.
- Accenture, a US-based consulting company, rose as it delivered expectations-beating earnings results, with organic growth accelerating to new highs following strong demand for digital transformation.
- Schneider Electric, a France-based electrical manufacturing and energy technology company, rallied as investors responded positively to the company's new revenue growth and operating margin ambitions for the medium term.
- Impax Asset Management, a UK-based asset manager, moved higher after a sell-side earnings estimate upgrade on the back of strong quarterly earnings results.

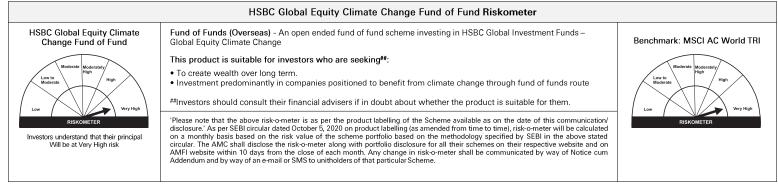
Top detractors to performance

- Hellofresh, First Solar and Vestas.Hellofresh, a Germany-based online meal kit provider, fell
- Hellofresh, a Germany-based online meal kit provider, fell after announcing greater investment needs to support its growth opportunities at its investor day.
- First Solar, a US-based solar module manufacturer, slid as a US democratic senator opposed Joe Biden's Build Back Better spending plan, which included substantial funding for renewable energy development.
- Vestas, a Denmark-based wind turbine manufacturer, dropped as the company indicated weakness in nearterm turbine orders and cautioned cost headwinds in 2022.

Outlook

- The global economy is entering the expansion phase of the economic cycle.
- Supportive fiscal and monetary policy combined with the positive vaccine rollout has boosted growth for the US and Europe.
- Supply chain pressures have translated into high inflation in recent months, inflation likely to remain contained over a medium term.
- Risks Concerns around the resurgence of COVID. Policy mistakes are also possible premature withdrawal of monetary support. Persistent inflationary pressures could trigger higher government bond yields which pose a risk to current pricing.
- Investing in structural change (climate change) means the portfolio exposed to companies with attractive long term growth profiles.
- The power of the underlying theme is being **overpowered in the short term by the rotation caused by the ratcheting up in yields** in response to inflationary fears and the desire to restore monetary policy to a more "normal" footing post pandemic.
- When rates used for discounting future cash flows rise it is understandable that this hits stock values in the short term.
- The fund puts theses structural changes at the heart of its exposures and will benefit from doing so over the longer term.
- Investing with a long term time horizon means experiencing periods of short term volatility and that has to be dealt with **patience** and conviction. It can also provide opportunities to add value by increasing weights in those stocks most impacted by the sell-off.
- Climate Change is the ultimate megatrend and identifying its solutions is an enormous commercial and investment opportunity. Longer term outlook for theme remains and is only getting stronger.

Data as on 31 Dec 2021, Source: HSBC Asset Management, HGIF Global Equity Climate Change underlying fund commentary, Bloomberg. ¹An open ended fund of fund scheme investing in HSBC Global Investment Funds – Global Equity Climate Change, Document date :27 Jan '21 **PUBLIC** 1



Data as on 31 December '21, Source: HSBC Asset Management

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